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our churches of so large a number of our workers giving freely of their time and energies during the trying summer season to the sacrificial social service of ministry to child life; in the character-forming processes set up in the lives of thousands of children who would otherwise be neglected; and in terms of a growing social consciousness in the coming generation, the result of the co-operative spirit of Christian helpfulness developed in the daily contacts of the daily vacation Bible schools.

### **Supply of Presbyterian Preachers**

The Presbyterian Board of Religious Education has gathered together some statistics which indicate the attitude of young Presbyterians to the work of the ministry. The following data regarding the location and occupation of graduates and former students of the University of Illinois are provided. Of the above number of students 25,671 are men and 7,414 are women. The occupational statistics are as follows: public-school work, 3,021; university work, 1,654; agriculture, 2,621; business, 1,592; engineering, 2,972; physicians, 347; accountants, 277; bankers, 303; journalists, 291; judges, 310; lawyers, 813; manufacturers, 282; real-estate dealers, 289; contractors, 316; musicians, 87;

ministers, 83. It is clear that these statistics show a very small percentage of students from the state university entering the ministry. Over against these statistics are placed figures showing the numbers of students entering the ministry from the Presbyterian colleges. Washington and Jefferson College reports 4,437 alumni, and of this number 1,727 entered the ministry. Lafayette College reported 5,663 alumni, of whom 627 were ministers. Central College reported 1,411 alumni, 251 being ministers. Hanover College reported 944 alumni, of whom 339 were ministers. Wabash College reported 1,186 alumni, 210 being ministers. From the newer Presbyterian colleges, it is said, similar proportions of the students have entered the ministry. These figures mean that the denominational institutions are the "preacher factories," but it should be remembered that they are more than this, for they send their alumni into the activities of many other vocations. Two statements made by the Presbyterian Board of Education are important: (1) the supply of candidates for the Presbyterian ministry has been stationary for the past few years; (2) the church membership is growing at the rate of 55,000 net increase each year, while, according to the minutes of 1915, the ratio was one candidate for the ministry for every 1,178 church members.

## **CHURCH EFFICIENCY**

### **Participation in the World-War**

Without passing judgment on the issues at stake in Europe, one may safely say that Canada's participation in the conflict has occasioned within her borders the development of a new point of view, and the establishment of new activities that might otherwise have taken decades to grow up. Whatever the merits of the case, Canadians firmly believe that they are fighting for liberty and democracy, and that therefore they are fighting for the right. The moral

issue in the war has appealed strongly to Canadians—especially to English-speaking Canadians. Doubtless the addresses delivered before Canadian clubs, Empire clubs, and board of trade, and at recruiting meetings have had much to do with this development of a keen sense of moral values.

One can observe, in addition, a remarkable change in the application of the sermons heard in Canadian churches. The pulpit has a message that bears on the national life as well as on the subjective problems of

the individual. A social gospel is now being preached by many men from whom it could scarcely have been expected, and, broadly speaking, it is being preached with great force and effectiveness.

That those who have enlisted have held a lofty point of view may be generally assumed. But the activities of those who have remained at home must not be forgotten. Witness, for instance, the recruiting activities of ministers, professors, and professional and business men who heretofore never really thought in terms of public service. Observe the remarkable pouring of funds into the treasuries of the Red Cross and the patriotic relief associations by business and professional men, by farmers and laborers. Consider how cities have given two millions when one had been asked, and how business men bend themselves with untiring energy, not only to their business, but also to hours and evenings of public service, and how men who never before devoted either time, thought, or funds to religious, social, or national work have taken the places of many of those who have gone overseas.

With new habits of giving and of energy established, with a new ethical viewpoint attached to church life and organization, and with a new and more vital conception of the individual's relation to his community and to other individuals growing rapidly, the future of every good movement in the interests of men seems bright indeed in Canada. The war has its compensations.

### **Prohibition**

The struggle between temperance advocates and the liquor sellers in Canada has been long and severe, but during the two years of the war, thanks to the new patriotic and moral fervor, remarkable strides have been made in establishing prohibition.

Prince Edward Island had already, in 1907, established prohibition with most satisfactory results. Halifax, the last municipi-

ality in Nova Scotia to harbor the liquor trade, has declared in favor of prohibition. The results of a referendum in Alberta in July, 1915, closed the bars in that province on July 1, a year later, while in June the legislature of Saskatchewan abolished the ordinary licensed liquor traffic, substituting therefor on July 1, 1916, twenty government liquor stores, and providing for a referendum at some future date. In Ontario a petition signed by 825,000 persons and a procession of 30,000 persons caused the government to provide a three years' prohibition of the trade, beginning on September 16 last, and to arrange for a referendum on its continuance for June, 1919. In Manitoba a referendum vote on March 13 put the fifteen-year-old "Macdonald Act" into effect on June 1, and during the spring session of the legislature of New Brunswick a "Non-Intoxicating Liquor Act" was passed to go into effect on May 1, 1917. In September last British Columbia voted by referendum to abolish the liquor traffic, and in March the Dominion government gave the provinces power to prevent the importation of liquor. Quebec alone, the province which has taken such an unworthy share in Canada's participation in the war, has failed to abolish the bar on or before July 1, 1917.

### **Federal Council Appoints Charles Stelzle Secretary for Special Service**

The Administrative Committee of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America has appointed Charles Stelzle as field secretary for special service. The character of Mr. Stelzle's duties has not yet been intimated, but doubtless they will have to do with the labor and social-service problems confronting the Council. Mr. Stelzle lived in New York's tenements for twenty years of his early life, and, before preparing for the work of the ministry, worked at the trade of machinist. His successful pastoral work in St. Louis and

Minneapolis was among the poor. Among his outstanding achievements was the development of the Labor Temple in New York. He has been identified with many forward movements of the church during the past fifteen years, and was one of the group of men who organized the Commission on the Church and Social Service of the Federal Council. He also organized the Department of Church and Labor of the Presbyterian Church and was its superintendent for ten years. Another important movement was the exchanging of fraternal delegates between labor organizations and ministerial associations. He has served as arbitrator in many labor difficulties, and in each case has been selected by employees and employers as chairman of such arbitration boards.

#### **Presbyterians in Canada Definitely Commit Themselves to Church Union**

On June 14 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada definitely committed the Presbyterians to organic church union with the Methodists and Congregationalists. The resolution which the General Assembly adopted by a vote of 406 to 88 was reported in brief by the *Toronto Globe* as follows:

The committee recommended, as a result of the large majorities and the similar position taken by the Methodist and Congregational churches, that a resolution be passed definitely committing the church to union, and that the decision be communicated to the Methodist and Congregational bodies, that within a period of one year after the close of war any congregation which had voted against union be permitted to vote as to whether it would enter the united church or not, that thereafter the Assembly proceed to seek the necessary legislation for union from Parliament, and that union be consummated as soon thereafter as regular steps can be taken.

The importance of this resolution may be more fully appreciated when it is realized that there are in Canada 333,457 Presby-

terian communicants, and that during this last year they contributed \$5,460,133. However, as might be expected, there is a strong and well-organized minority who resist the union movement. In the resolution which has been adopted by the General Assembly provision has been made for such local churches as finally decide not to join the unionists to retain possession of their local property. But those composing the minority maintain that where those who are obsessed with the union idea enter into organic union with the Methodists and Congregationalists the property of Presbyterianism in Canada will revert to the minority. In their contention they are sustained by the legal proceedings relative to Presbyterianism in Scotland. The minority has announced that no matter how the vote goes the Presbyterian church will be continued in Canada. *The Presbyterian*, a Toronto paper, says that "that threat was by far the most potent argument against union."

#### **Congregational Tercentenary Movement under Way**

When the Northern Baptists initiated their Five Year Program they little suspected how wide its influence would be. Since then the Baptists of Western Canada have followed their lead and have inaugurated a program that is calculated to meet their immediate needs. The influence may also be traced to the tercentenary movement of the Congregationalists which is now under way. The Congregational National Council has prepared a practical program which is being promoted by the Tercentenary Commission. The period throughout which the program extends is to end in 1920. Some of the important objectives of the program are: to secure 500,000 new members before 1920; to raise \$2,000,000 yearly for missions; to secure recruits for life-tasks; to create a great memorial fund. Arrangements are rapidly being completed for successful promotion of this program.